

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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- Sub. a3
1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - b) the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - c) nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - d) the complement of nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
 2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1 which is DNA.
 - 10 3. An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - b) the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - c) nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - 15 d) the complement of nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
 4. An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - b) the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - 20 c) nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - d) the complement of nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
 5. A nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) SEQ ID NO: 1;
b) the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1;
c) nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
d) the complement of nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

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6. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

7. A method for assaying the presence of a nucleic acid molecule in a sample, comprising contacting said sample with a second nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

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- a) SEQ ID NO: 1;
b) the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1;
c) a portion of SEQ ID NO: 1 which is at least about 10 contiguous nucleotides; and
d) a portion of the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1 which is at least

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about 10 contiguous nucleotides,
under conditions appropriate for selective hybridization.

8. A vector comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1 operatively linked to a regulatory sequence.

9. A recombinant host cell comprising the vector of Claim 8.

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10. A method for preparing a polypeptide encoded by an isolated nucleic acid molecule, comprising culturing the recombinant host cell of Claim 9 under conditions suitable for expression of said nucleic acid molecule.

11. An isolated polypeptide encoded by an isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1.

12. An isolated polypeptide comprising all or a portion of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

5 13. An antibody, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof, which selectively binds to the polypeptide encoded by an isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1, or to a portion of said polypeptide.

10 14. An antibody, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof, which selectively binds to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or to a portion of said amino acid sequence.

15. A method for assaying the presence of a polypeptide encoded by an isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1 in a sample, comprising contacting said sample with an antibody which specifically binds to the encoded polypeptide.